

## TEN PER CENT OF ARMY WOMEN

Stated by One Who Observes That Many Amazons Are Numbered in Ranks of Fighting Japs.

Peasant Class of Women Stronger Than Men and Capable of War's Hardships.

## BOTH SEXES IN BATTLE

Returning Business Man Says That Another Call for Volunteers Will Bring Out All Classes, Young and Old.

Victoria, B. C., May 4.—A gentleman of business, who claims to have been the last passenger to go over the Trans-Siberian railway from Port Arthur after the declaration of war, is Richard Chester, of Tanegashima Island, Japan, who is now in this city, awaiting the sailing of the Empress of China to return to his oriental home. Mr. Chester is a contractor to the mikado's government, and has control of the immense timber reserves on the island that he denominates as his home—Tanegashima being the extreme southern island in the Japanese archipelago.

"When the history of this war is written," said Mr. Chester, "it will be found that at least 10 per cent of the Japanese soldiers in the field were women in the disguise of men. Should the mikado issue another call for troops every remaining man, woman and child in Japan would certainly respond. The Japanese women, more particularly the coolie class, are on the average stronger than are the men—at least, so I have found them, in some of the large

contracts in which I have had occasion to employ them."

Mr. Chester says he is one of but three Europeans who have made the journey through Asiatic Russia since the war began. Between Dalny and Harbin he passed over 100,000 Russian soldiers in military trains, which were then being hurried to the several mobilization centers. The czar's fighting men did not impress Mr. Chester favorably, although he had ample opportunity to see the best of them.

With regard to the Trans-Siberian railway, having traveled over the entire route, he says the roadbed and line are in very fair condition, but that the rolling stock is poor—obsolete, in fact—and the trains make very slow time.

Mr. Chester narrowly escaped being frozen to death in crossing the much-talked-of Lake Balkal in Siberia. When he arrived at the half-way house, which is constructed every year in the center of the lake, he was insensible, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that he was resuscitated. He scoffs at the idea of a temporary railway being built over Lake Balkal, and declares that the idea of building such a line must have originated in the fertile imagination of some of the war correspondents at the front, debarred from live news, but hound to satisfy the insatiable demand for live "copy."

Mr. Chester makes the astonishing statement that prior to last December Japan had landed 120,000 men in the vicinity of Ping Yang, Korea, from which point they were quietly distributed through that country. These men were all fully armed and prepared to keep the field for an indefinite period. By this time, Mr. Chester is confident, this brigade will have formed a junction with the other 100,000 men who have been landed at some point on the Liao Tung peninsula.

### SHIP YARDS TIED UP.

Five Thousand Men Involved and Others May Be Affected.

New York, May 4.—All the large ship yards in the metropolitan district except the Boston Drydock Company and Letjen & Martin are tied up today as the result of the strike of the boiler-makers.

Five thousand men are involved and workmen of other trades may be affected. "Closed shop" is the issue.

## PORT ARTHUR REPORTED TO BE ABSOLUTELY SEALED BY DETERMINED JAPS

Beginning to Be Believed That Repeated Efforts to Bottle Up the Russian Stronghold Have Succeeded.

Denials by Russians Grow Evasive and Fainthearted—The Japanese Planned to Block Entrance Effectively, Expressing a Willingness to Lose Half Their Men in Performing the Feat—News Is Reliable.

London, May 4.—The opinion gains ground here that the Japanese have at last effectually blocked Port Arthur. No official Japanese reports have been received, but Tokio correspondents are very positive regarding the matter and describe the determination with which the enterprise was undertaken.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent declares that the entrance to Port Arthur is "absolutely sealed" and adds that the Japanese fleet in effecting its purpose steamed into the entrance at full speed and naval officers who made two previous attempts and begged permission to carry out the next attack by daylight, that being the easier, and their request was granted.

So determined were they to succeed, adds the correspondent, that they decided, if necessary, to lose half their men. The number of casualties sustained by the Japanese has not yet been announced.

In favor of the supposition of the Japanese success in blocking Port Arthur it is pointed out that previous attempts had left the channels so narrow that a couple of vessels sunk in a fair way would probably suffice to seal up the entrance and it is added that to this there is a noticeable evasion and half-heartedness in the Russian denials of the enemy's success.

Tokio, May 4.—The reports which have been received here of the successful blocking of the entrance to Port Arthur harbor by the Japanese, coming on the heels of the news of the victory on the Yalu, stirred Tokio to another popular demonstration and tonight thousands of men, carrying lanterns swinging high from bamboo poles, paraded through the city. Half a dozen bands of music led the various processions.

The officers of the war and navy departments, and of the general staff, were the scenes of the greatest enthusiasm. Two of the imperial princes visited the navy department, and the assembled crowd welcomed them with cheers. Then the throng demanded Admiral Ito, chief of the general staff, and the hero of the fight on the Yalu during the Chino-Japanese war. He appeared in response to the calls of the people and saluted them.

It had been expected that tidings of the Port Arthur engagement would come from Vice Admiral Togo some time during the day, but none was received.

The report which has reached here from Europe that General Kuropatkin, the commander-in-chief of the Russian troops in the far east, is personally leading 20,000 men from Liao Yang to Feng Wang Cheng, is welcomed as good news, on the theory that the more aggressive the Russian campaign becomes the more speedy will be Japan's final victory.

### GIVES BATTLE IN DETAIL.

Czar Receives Report of Engagement of May 1 from Field General. St. Petersburg, May 4.—The emperor has received through General Kuropatkin, General Kashtalinsky's report of the battle on May 1. It consists principally of a detailed statement of the various tactical maneuvers of Kashtalinsky's division.

The report concludes with the statement that the Russian losses amount to 40 officers and 2000 men, and that the "Japanese losses must have been enormous." Nowhere does he allude to his having been wounded as reported by the Japanese.

### Germans Getting Wise.

Berlin, May 4.—Newspapers here have largely given up their disposition to belittle the Japanese victory on the

Yalu. The first observations of the editors are now followed by articles from military critics, one of whom declares that the loss of half the Russian artillery "spells defeat."

### FEW IN CAMPS.

Strength of Russians in Southern Manchuria Greatly Exaggerated.

London, May 4.—The Standard's Tien Tsin correspondent says he is convinced that the Russian position in southern Manchuria is exceedingly weak, as a consequence of the enormous number of men detached to guard the railway and to obtain provisions. He believes that the forces at Hal Cheng and Liao Cheng are greatly exaggerated. Camps, he says, are numerous, but there are few men in them. There are several fortifications in the hills between Chang Feng and Hal Cheng, but the line of communication is weak and straggling.

### Fight Like Chinamen.

London, May 5.—The Tokio correspondent of the Times sends the following:

The Japanese consider that Russian strategy at the battle of the Yalu showed the same defect as that of the Chinese in 1894, namely, the lack of offensive initiative.

### Reported Capture Discredited.

Shanghai, May 5.—The report that Niuchwang has been captured by the Japanese is not credited here. Official dispatches sent out from there make no mention of any fighting in that vicinity.

### Port Arthur Bottled.

London, May 4.—The Tokio correspondent of both of the Telegraph and the Chronicle assert that Port Arthur is effectively "corked."

### Japan Buys Ships.

Berlin, May 4.—The Vossische Zeitung says it is informed that the German Lloyd Steamship Company has sold to the Japanese government eight steamers belonging to its east Asiatic lines for war purposes.

### Another Battle Expected.

London, May 4.—It is said that the Japanese have advanced to within 18 miles of Feng Wang Cheng, and another engagement is expected almost immediately.

### WRECKED CREW IN PORT.

Colon, Damaged by Striking Reef, Sinks Rapidly.

San Francisco, May 4.—The steamship Acapulco arrived today from Panama with the crew of the wrecked liner Colon on board. Captain Irvine and Second Officer Thompson remained at Actjutla with the wreck.

The officers of the wrecked steamship say the vessel struck twice and was hopelessly damaged from the shock. Before she was beached the water in her hold was 11 feet deep and the vessel was far down by the head and rapidly sinking. All on board landed without much difficulty.

### ESCAPES FROM TRAIN.

Both Officer and Murderer Gone—May Be Drowned.

Ogden, Utah, May 4.—It is reported that a deputy sheriff from Butte was on the westbound Southern Pacific with a prisoner arrested somewhere in Nevada and that the prisoner attempted to escape by jumping from the train and was followed by the officer.

According to Sheriff Quinn of Butte he was to meet the officer with the prisoner at Ogden, and received a tele-

gram from him, saying that he had left Tacoma, Nevada, for Ogden with the prisoner in charge. When the train arrived neither of the men appeared, and two men on the train claimed to have seen them jump off. A search was immediately instituted, but they were not found. It was then supposed the men had fallen into the river, and this was thoroughly searched, but without result.

The prisoner is supposed to be the murderer Lennox, and he was in the charge of Deputy Sheriff Miller of Silver Bow county. About 10 o'clock last night a man showed up at a saloon at Five Points, in the northern part of the city, covered with mud and water, as if he might have been in the river. He was alone, and offered no explanation, but left the place in a few minutes.

### MYSTERY SOLVED AT LAST.

Henry Schultz of Spokane Claimed by His Family.

Spokane, Wash., May 4.—Mystery surrounding Henry Schultz, which has been puzzling the police department for the past week, has been cleared up by the arrival of the family from his former home in Elderon, Wis.

Schultz was found wandering about the city Wednesday night a week ago, seemingly out of mind, and when questioned he gave every indication that he was dazed. He told the officers that he came here the week before with a stepdaughter who had disappeared, taking what money they had with her. The facts, as stated by the family, are that the old man recently lost his saw mill in Wisconsin by fire, losing about \$14,000. The trouble partially unbalanced his mind, and he and the stepdaughter came to Spokane to find a new home. After their arrival here the father sent the girl back to Elderon to bring the family here, which she did, and they are again united. It is their intention to take up a homestead.

### BASEBALL SCORES.

Pacific Coast.  
At Portland—Oakland 8, Portland 3.  
At Seattle—Tacoma 2, Seattle 1.  
At San Francisco—Los Angeles 4, San Francisco 5.  
Pacific National.  
At Boise—Spokane 6, Boise 4.  
American.  
At Detroit—Cleveland 6, Detroit 3.  
At St. Louis—Chicago 1, St. Louis 5.  
National.  
At Chicago—Pittsburg 2, Chicago 4.  
At Philadelphia—Brooklyn 5, Philadelphia 4.  
At Boston—Boston 3, New York 11.  
At Cincinnati—St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 6.

## IOWA WILL GO SOLID FOR HEARST

His Supporters Listen to no Compromise and Win Out in Convention That Is Marked by Wild Scenes.

Orators for Both Sides Hissed and Some Are Driven off the Stage.

## INSTRUCTIONS ARE EXPLICIT

Delegation to St. Louis Will Vote as Unit for Nomination of Newspaperman as Presidential Candidate.

Des Moines, May 4.—William R. Hearst swept the field in the Iowa state democratic convention held here today. He had a majority of over 150 in the convention and Hearst resolutions were adopted, Hearst delegations from contested counties were seated and Hearst delegates were elected and the convention instructed to vote as a unit. The convention was boisterous and orators, of whom there were many on both sides, were hissed, some of them being driven from the stage.

Congressman M. J. Wade, the only democratic congressman from Iowa; J. W. Sullivan, late candidate for governor; M. F. Healy, who came out of a retirement of six years to do it, and others, appealed to their party in vain against instructions. The Hearst people would listen to no compromise and Wade and Sullivan do not appear on the delegation. Cries of "bought," "brass collar," "how much did it cost?" met the Hearst speakers whenever they attempted to speak and pandemonium reigned in the convention.

### THOROUGHBREDS NAMED.

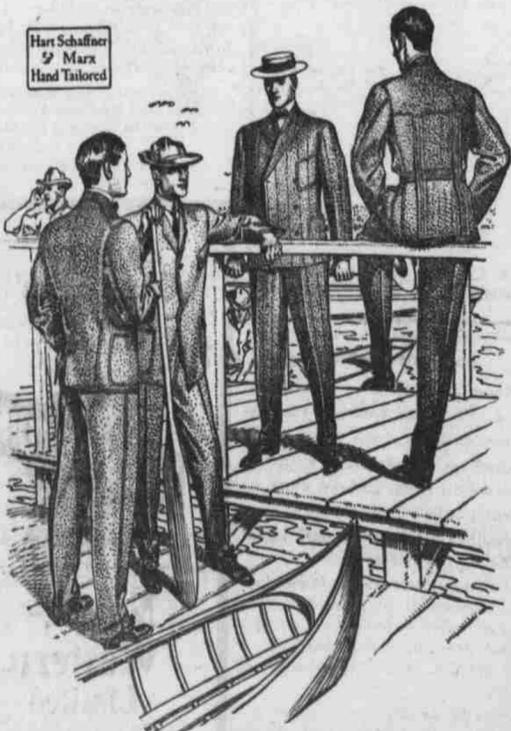
Will Compete for Great Prize, Metropolitan Handicap.

New York, May 4.—Sixteen thoroughbreds were named by their trainers today to start for the first great prize of the eastern season, the Metropolitan handicap at Mile, which will be run over the Withers course at Morris park, shortly after 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

## FOR THE OUTING MAN

YOU know, without our telling you, what is meant by "outing clothes;" coat and trousers usually to be worn with a negligee shirt to loaf in, or to go summer-resorting in; or maybe, on sweltering days, to wear to business. Let us show you the correct thing in HIGH-CLASS, Perfect Garments.

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